

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A method in a data processing system for enabling a user to efficiently capture information, said method comprising the steps of:

5 monitoring for user invocation of an information capture action as a user uses said data processing system;

determining, upon said user invocation, if said information capture action is a redundant information capture action by searching redundancy determination history information for presence of a previously performed information capture action that matches said information capture action; and

10 providing an alert to said user when said information capture action is a redundant information capture action.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of providing an alert further includes the step of automatically canceling said information capture action.

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3. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of providing an alert comprises the step of providing a warning prompt, said warning prompt requiring user action before leaving the user interface.

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4. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of automatically maintaining said information capture action to said redundancy determination history information.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of monitoring for user invocation of an information capture action further includes the step of monitoring according to user configurable tracking variables.

5 6. The method of claim 1 wherein said redundancy determination history information is user configurable for containing information capture actions previously performed in any time window.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of determining if said
10 information capture action is a redundant information capture action by searching redundancy determination history information for presence of a previously performed information capture action that matches said information capture action comprises the step of determining if said
15 information capture action is a redundant information capture action by searching redundancy determination history information for presence of a previously performed information capture action that is a subset of said information capture action.

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8. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of determining if said information capture action is a redundant information capture action by searching redundancy determination history information for presence of a previously performed information capture action that matches said information capture action comprises the step of determining if said information capture action is a redundant information capture action by searching redundancy determination history information for presence of a previously performed information capture action that is a superset of said information capture action.

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9. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of determining if said information capture action is a redundant information capture action further includes the step of determining that the information capture action is not redundant when an inconsequential user invocation causes said information capture action.

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10. The method of claim 1 further including the step of accepting user configurations affecting processing behavior of said data processing system.

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11. A data processing system for enabling a user to efficiently capture information, said data processing system comprising:

means for monitoring for user invocation of an information capture action as a user uses said data processing system;

5 means for determining, upon said user invocation, if said information capture action is a redundant information capture action by searching redundancy determination history information for presence of a previously performed information capture action that matches said information capture action; and

10 means for providing an alert to said user when said information capture action is a redundant information capture action.

12. The system of claim 11 wherein said means for providing an alert further includes means for automatically canceling said information capture
15 action.

13. The system of claim 11 wherein said means for providing an alert comprises means for providing a warning prompt, said warning prompt requiring user action before leaving the user interface.

20 14. The system of claim 11 further comprising means for automatically maintaining said information capture action to said redundancy determination history information.

15. The system of claim 11 wherein said means for monitoring for user invocation of an information capture action further includes means for monitoring according to user configurable tracking variables.

5 16. The system of claim 11 wherein said redundancy determination history information is user configurable for containing information capture actions previously performed in any time window.

10 17. The system of claim 11 wherein said means for determining if said information capture action is a redundant information capture action by searching redundancy determination history information for presence of a previously performed information capture action that matches said information capture action comprises means for determining if said information capture action is a redundant information capture action by
15 searching redundancy determination history information for presence of a previously performed information capture action that is a subset of said information capture action.

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18. The system of claim 11 wherein said means for determining if said information capture action is a redundant information capture action by searching redundancy determination history information for presence of a previously performed information capture action that matches said information capture action comprises means for determining if said information capture action is a redundant information capture action by searching redundancy determination history information for presence of a previously performed information capture action that is a superset of said information capture action.

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19. The system of claim 11 wherein said means for determining if said information capture action is a redundant information capture action further includes means for determining that the information capture action is not redundant when an inconsequential user invocation causes said information capture action.

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20. A data processing system for enabling a user to efficiently print information, said data processing system comprising:

means for monitoring for user invocation of a print action as a user uses said data processing system;

5 means for determining, upon said user invocation, if said print action is a redundant print action by searching redundancy determination history information for presence of a previously performed print action that matches said print action; and

10 means for providing an alert to said user when said print action is a redundant print action.